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GSU View

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Students Inspire Students in Inaugural S2S Conference



What's the difference between high school and college? What's a good way to plan financially for college? And how do you know which college or university to go to?

High school students looking ahead often get plenty of advice on these topics from family members, teachers and guidance counselors, but there's nothing like hearing from college students who navigated the same territory just a couple of years ago and have figured out how to forge their own successful path.

"Parents can tell you a lot of things about college, but seeing someone who has just transitioned is more impactful," said Dajza Mitchell, 21 of Glenwood, a junior at [Governors State University](#). "We have more experience with what [students] have to deal with now from day to day."

Mitchell was among GSU students who shared their expertise at the S2S Engagement Conference on March 1. Hosted by GSU's [College Pathways Program](#) called "Level Up: Navigating the Road to Success," it drew more than 100 south suburban high school students and at least two dozen GSU students for a day-long discussion of how to transition successfully from high school to college.

The event was designed to be student-driven and student-led, which meant students from both high school and college helped plan the logistics, create presentations and run the conference, said Kristy Goodwin, Director of the College Pathways Program.

"It's good for high school students to hear from GSU students as well as their peers," she said. "And it gets high school students involved in what adults do in their careers, like giving presentations and figuring out how to keep your audience engaged. They're learning stuff they ordinarily wouldn't experience until



later in life."

Among them was Daniela Saavedra, 17, a senior at Thornton-Fractional North High School who lives in Calumet City. As a panelist speaking on involvement and engagement, she said one of her challenges has been time management. "When I was younger, I'd procrastinate with assignments. I could do them at the last minute and still get a good grade," she said. "But I learned that that doesn't always work out. AP classes can be overwhelming. And it's hard to balance what you need to do with what you want to do."

Mitchell, who was also on the panel, pointed out, "In college you're on your own. You've got to be a lot more disciplined. You need to be proactive about everything from your assignments to financial aid because no one is going to do things for you. But there are so many resources. Don't be afraid to ask for help."

John Perry, Director of [Financial Aid](#) at GSU, echoed the thought in a panel called "Money, Money, Money, Money, Money." Acknowledging that the question of how to pay for college invariably provokes plenty of questions, he urged students to ask college staff for help, no matter what the question might be.

"A financial aid package shows what you're eligible for, but you should borrow only what you need," he said.

One high school student wondered, "Wouldn't you want to accept it all?"

"Grants, yes," Perry told her, "but not loans. Watch your borrowing. It can start to add up. Realize you're going to have to pay it back with interest, and you'll want that money from your first job to go to things like car payments or rent."



While Perry was among a handful of GSU staff members who offered advice at the conference, most of the voices belonged to students. They tackled topics like how to handle stress, what study abroad experiences are like and how to graduate from college debt-free.

And while the goal was to prepare participants for heading off to whatever college or university they choose, the teenagers heard several good reasons to choose GSU.

Describing how he decided which school to attend, panelist Pete Brassea, a GSU senior majoring in social work, said, “I looked at location and affordability. To me, diversity was important. And I wanted to go to a place where I wasn’t in a class with 100 other students. I wanted the professor to know my name.”

Both he and Mitchell also credited their success in part to the [Dual Degree Program](#), the unique, award-winning partnership between GSU and 17 Chicagoland community colleges that supports students in earning an associate’s degree first.

“It had a tremendous effect on me,” said Mitchell.

The conference, which Goodwin said may become an annual event at GSU, clearly resonated with participants. “It was definitely worth it,” said Terrell Steele, 15, a sophomore at Crete-Monee High School who lives in University Park and is contemplating a career as a professional chef.

“I got to gather a lot of info like how to manage financial aid, how to deal with stress, and about the different curriculums and activities,” he said. “And you’ve got to have fun because college goes by fast.”

<https://content.presspage.com/uploads/1507/gstudent2studentconference-997545.mp4?10000>

Rev. Albert Sampson Reflects on Work with King, Inspires Jaguars

Sampson, one of GSU's first graduates, marched with King and continues fight for equality

Rev. Dr. Albert “Al” Sampson, one of the first graduates of [Governors State University](#), returned to campus recently to share his legendary journey as a civil rights icon, ordained by his mentor, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Young people, you have to see yourself with an international mind,” Sampson said to an audience of students, faculty, staff, and members of the community in an uplifting talk that was part sermon and part



oral history.

Special guest Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ, introduced Sampson, whom he called “living history,” reflecting on his work with trailblazers from King to Chicago's first black mayor, Harold Washington. Moss said Sampson's efforts to advance civil rights for African Americans “ensures our community is growing and developing on so many levels.”

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon described Sampson as a “living connection to history” as she welcomed the 1973 alumnus, whose visit marked both Black History Month and the university's 50th Anniversary this year.

As a gift to the university that he said changed his life, Sampson dedicated a copy of *Rise of the Phoenix: Voices from Chicago's Black Struggle 1960-1975* by Useni E. Perkins to the GSU Library. *Rise of the Phoenix*, a collection of personal narratives that articulate the political, social, religious, and cultural

experiences of many who were part of African American Chicagoans' struggle for equality, includes an



essay by Sampson.

In "Chicago Freedom Movement Recollections from a Dr. King Foot Soldier," Sampson, then a Southern Christian Leadership Conference staff member, writes about the civil rights organization's journey to Chicago's slums the summer of 1966.

King's movement was met with mixed reactions from whites and blacks, afraid to upset the power structure and jeopardize political gains, Sampson wrote.

During a march in Marquette Park, protestors struck King in the head, drawing the ire of street gang members who had become close with the civil rights leader. King convinced the young men not to seek retaliation and to embrace the nonviolent principles of the movement.

In *Rise of the Phoenix*, Sampson related an exchange between King and members of street gang:

Dr. King was a powerful listener. As the young men expressed anger and outrage, he suddenly asked them a question.

"If a house is burning, would you put more fire on that fire?"

The street leaders became indignant and accused Dr. King of insulting their intelligence.

"Man everybody knows you fight fire with water," they yelled.

"Exactly," King said, "that is what nonviolence is."



After the summer stay in Chicago, Sampson returned to Atlanta, then moved back to Chicago after King was assassinated in 1968. He enrolled in GSU in the early 70s to pursue a master's degree in cultural studies.

"Governors State was in its infancy when you were here," said GSU Professor Rashidah Muhammad, who led the discussion with Sampson at GSU. Indeed, the university had graduated only one class when Sampson enrolled, and students met in a Park Forest South (now University Park) warehouse.

Intrigued to study social constructs and trends emerging in the mid-70s, Sampson said, "GSU gave me something cultural," with a flourish of his hand.

When asked about his thoughts on young activists such as those leading the Black Lives Matter movement, Sampson said simply, "When you have people, you have to know where to take them."

Sampson received a standing ovation that brought him to tears.

He closed the discussion with a request to GSU administrators to partner with him to help other students through agricultural programs and scholarships to help end the epidemics of diabetes and heart disease which disproportionately affect the African American community. "GSU provided me with guidance 50 years ago. Let's keep it going."

A Super Literacy Night Hosted by SEA/KDP



The Student Education Association (SEA) and Kappa Delta Pi Honors Society (KDP) took part in a Literacy Night on **Wednesday, February 27** from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at Monee Elementary School District 201. The theme for literacy night was “Superheroes.” Students and family members from Monee Elementary were able to partake in several activities, including reading, writing and making literacy-themed crafts.

Call for Student Nominations for 2019 Student Commencement Speaker and Vocalist



The Commencement Student Speaker and Vocalist Committee are currently accepting applications for the commencement ceremony to be held on **Saturday, May 18**. There will be two ceremonies; one at 10 a.m. for CAS and COB, and one at 4:30 p.m. for CHHS and COE.

As a result, the committee will select two commencement speakers and two commencement singers, one for each ceremony. The speaker will provide an address, and the vocalist will sing the National Anthem at the start of the ceremony. We are seeking applications for candidates who represent all colleges for this prestigious honor.

[View criteria and application requirements.](#)

Warming Hearts for Christmas



Members of the GSU Wellness Club collected clothing from GSU students and staff to donate to needy families over the holiday season. Ivonne Kanko arranged a giveaway day on December 7, 2018 at St. Ailbe's Church in Chicago.

The event was arranged by Courtney McAndrew, Jala Wilson, Nicole Siek, Kayla Lloyd, Janiel Brownridge, Anderi Ardelean, and Nathan Skrobot, and operated by Courtney McAndrew, Jala Wilson, Anderi Ardelean, and Nathan Skrobot.

Open House



Learn more about Governors State at an upcoming Undergraduate and Graduate Open House on **Saturday, March 23**. Information will be provided about admission requirements, academic programs, campus resources, student activities, and on-campus housing at [Prairie Place](#).

[Learn more and register.](#)

Intellectual Life Grants Available



The Intellectual Life Committee is again offering Intellectual Life Grants. The Intellectual Life Grants will be awarded for up to \$500 for events taking place between August 12, 2019 and December 6, 2019 that promote and increase awareness of the arts, humanities and other intellectual topics of universal interest.

[Learn more . . .](#)

Adult Learners, OIR Needs Your Opinion



Recently, select students, faculty, and staff received the Adult Learner 360 survey from the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). GSU has partnered with the national study to understand the needs of students over the age of 25 and identify improvements to serve them.

The survey closes on **March 18**, and the results of the study will be shared during the **March 29** campus symposium that will focus on improvements GSU can make to understand, support, and serve our adult learners.

Contact the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) with questions.

HOPERA: The Role of Music in Community Action

Join Adrian Dunn, accomplished singer, composer and producer and CEO of HoperaWorld Entertainment, **Tuesday March 26** at 5 p.m., in Sherman Hall for a workshop discussion on the role of music and the arts in sharing community stories for a powerful impact.

His production *HOPERA: A Fallen Hero*, blends the magic of hip hop and opera to tell the tale of the challenges faced by many inner-city youth. Loosely based on the Libretto from *Othello*, Dunn makes the opera and the story accessible to youth affected by gun violence through the use of dance, a

contemporary band versus an orchestra, and spoken word. These modern elements allow for a wider audience to appreciate both the music and the messages conveyed.

To Dunn, *HOPERA* is an antidote to traditional opera, which he sees as being somewhat racist (*Turandot*, *Aida*, *Carmen*) and not welcoming to everyman. According to Dunn, “This project is a slice of America. “This is opera on my own terms, outside the confines.” For a preview, [click here](#).

RSVP to Lana@govst.edu by March 22.

RSVP Now for March 29 Spring All-Campus Symposium



GSU's spring all-campus symposium will be held **Friday, March 29** on the stage of the CPA. This semester's symposium—Action Plan: Removing Obstacles for Adult Learners—will continue our work from last fall.

Last fall's symposium discussion focused on the barriers adult learners face. Since its founding in 1969, GSU has been dedicated to meeting the needs of adult learners. On March 29, we will explore action plans that will help us increase the opportunities and successes of this nationally underserved population. Pam Tate, formerly of CAEL and now chief national partnerships officer at Strada Education Network, will be our facilitator.

A continental breakfast will be available at 8:30 a.m., and we will begin promptly at 9 a.m. A working lunch is planned to ensure an early afternoon conclusion.

RSVPs, required for this event, should be sent to [Penny Perdue](#) (x4130).

Second Annual CSIFF Accepting Submissions



The Chicago Southland International Film Festival is accepting submissions for its second annual festival at Governors State University. The international short film competition featuring both student and professional films from around the globe will take place **September 6 – 7**, and the Feature Film Showcase (non-competition) will consist of feature film screenings on **September 8**.

[Submit your film](#) for consideration, and learn more at www.govst.edu/CSIFF.

Library Adds White Boards, Phone Charging Stations, and Power Stations



“Students have been asking for new white boards in the group study areas, a phone charging station, and power stations in the library,” said Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the GSU Library.

“We are happy to announce that we have heard our students and each of the group study rooms now has a new white board. There is also a new telephone charging station as well as two new power towers located in the library! The Library is often referred to as the living room of GSU, and we are definitely here to support our students and their efforts toward achieving success.”

If you have questions, please contact GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu.

Spring Break

The days are getting longer and warmer, just in time for spring break! Spring break will take place **March 18 - March 24**. Classes will resume, **Monday, March 25**.

Please note that *The View* will not be published during spring break.

Announcements and Events

Insights: Life Before, During, and After Incarceration

Join the GSU Criminal Justice Department for a presentation by author and community activist Darryl Cooke tonight, **March 12** from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Hall of Honors. Learn about the impact of mass incarceration at both the individual and national levels, and explore how individuals can be agents of social change for one of the most serious epidemics facing our nation.

This event is free and open to the public. Contact Professor [Caron Jacobson](#), facilitator of the event, for more information.

2019 Spring Open Market

Come out and support local vendors and crafters at the Annual Spring Open Market, sponsored by the GSU Civil Service Senate. The event, open to the public, will be held **March 13 – 14** from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the Hall of Governors.

For more information, contact civilservice@govst.edu or call 708.534.4481.

Student Senate Elections for 2019 – 20 Academic Year

Student Senate Elections for the 2019 – 20 academic year are underway. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to gain leadership skills and serve peers. We ask faculty to recommend qualified students to participate. Student Senate Election Packets are available on Jaguar Connection and must be submitted to Student Life by **Friday, March 15**.

For more information, email [Robert Clay](#).

GRE and LSAT Preparation Courses

Hosted by the School of Extended Learning, the GRE and LSAT Preparation Courses will begin Saturday, **March 30** from 9 a.m. – noon at GSU. Registrations are still being accepted and the deadline is **March 18**.

Register [here](#) for the GRE Preparation Course.

Register [here](#) for the LSAT Preparation Course.

For more information, please contact [Dr. Felicia L. Townsend](#), Director of Corporate and Community Education at ftownsend@govst.edu or 708.534.3044.

SHERO Women's Leadership Symposium

The S.H.E.R.O. Women's Leadership Symposium inspires women to seek their highest level of personal and professional development through a greater understanding of leadership and the

acquisition of new ideas to optimize and sustain personal potential. S.H.E.R.O. stands for Sharing Her Story of Empowerment, Resilience and Opportunity.

The annual SHERO Women's Leadership Symposium has been rescheduled to **Friday, April 5**. [Register here](#) by **Friday, March 22**.

Time to Get Ready to Celebrate Sandy's Birthday



Be sure to stop by the library on **Tuesday, April 2** for Sandy's birthday party. To help celebrate, we are creating a birthday blanket for Sandy and need pictures of students, faculty, and staff with Sandy. Stop by the library any Tuesday from 2 -5 p.m. Take your picture with Sandy and post it to [Sandy's Facebook page](#).

Questions? Email GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu.

In Their Shoes: Understanding and Experiencing International Students' Social, Cultural, and Academic Lives



Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend a symposium and panel-discussion on specific academic struggles facing second language students from a strengths-based pedagogical perspective rather than the predominate deficits discourse.

Through guided conversation and a student panel discussion, the following academic topics will be covered:

- 1) the unspoken [behavioral and academic] assumptions in a classroom;
- 2) the coded language of a course syllabus and assignments
- 3) the colliding pedagogy of learning by rote memorization versus the course-work expectation of independent analysis.

The discussion will take place **Friday, April 19** from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. in room D34000.

Sponsored by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee Co-facilitators: Akiko Ota, Ed.D. Director, English Language Learning Center; Chris Greiner, M.F.A. Visiting Lecturer, Division of Arts and Letters.

For information, contact [Chris Greiner](mailto:Chris.Greiner@gsu.edu) (708.235.7143).

GSU Foundation and Alumni Association Scholarships Available

Scholarships have been posted on the GSU Foundation Website for the Fall 2019 semester. More than \$45,000 in awards are available. Please assist in getting the word out to students via classroom notices, advisor appointments, etc.

Apply today - deadline is **Friday, April 26**. All students stand a chance at receiving a scholarship, but they must apply!

Visit www.govst.edu/foundationsscholarships for criteria and application.

Mindfulness Practice in the Library Every Thursday



Join Dr. Tim Pedigo every Thursday afternoon from 3:20 – 4:20 p.m. for a meditation session and mindfulness practice in the GSU Library. “These are challenging times, but an amazing opportunity to practice mindfulness,” offered Dr. Pedigo.

Questions? Email GSULibraryInfo@govst.edu.

Team Jaguar Fit Camp

Team Jaguar Fitcamp is a 5-week class beginning **Monday, April 1**, that will focus on a variety of ways participants can maintain and improve their physical health and body composition. Each class will include strength training, cardio intervals and more.

[Learn more . . .](#)

Nurse Practitioner Skills Day

Advanced Practitioner Skills Day will be held **Saturday, April 6**, at 8 a.m. in (lower-level) Nursing Classroom #G015. Attendees will learn to suture: covering all common outpatient techniques, when and what to suture, and to select best practices for anesthesia; interpret 12-Lead EKG: covering all fundamentals of heart attack identification, rapid interpretation of injury patterns, and advanced diagnostics; X-Rays: chest and abdominal course covers all common findings from plain-films that would routinely be identified in family practice, and includes audience polling for real-time anonymous feedback.

The enrollment fee of \$175 includes 8.0 ANCC-approved nursing contact hours; all materials needed for course completion, and suture trainer for home-use.

Contact [Dr. Josephine McCaskill](#), or [Dr. John Russell](#) with Skills On Point, LLC.

Avoiding Pitfalls in Public Speaking



Instructor
Jeanne Sparrow

Hosted by the School of Extended Learning, the Avoiding Pitfalls in Public Speaking workshop will take place **Wednesday, April 10**, 9 a.m. – noon at GSU. During a recent Training News interview with Dr. Felicia L. Townsend, workshop instructor, Jeanne Sparrow highlighted topics that will be covered during the workshop. Register for the workshop [here](#). GSU staff, faculty, students, and alumni use discount code GSU55 during checkout. For more information, please email [Dr. Felicia L. Townsend](#), Director of Corporate and Community Education or by calling 708.534.3044.



Governors State University

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